

What is Claimed is:

1. A picture decoding apparatus comprising:

an input means for inputting a plurality of picture signals;

a first storage means for storing said picture signals input by said input means independently of each other;

a first select means for selecting a predetermined one among said picture signals stored in said first storage means;

a decoding means for decoding a picture signal selected by said first select means;

a second select means for selecting a predetermined one among picture signals decoded by said decoding means; and

a second storage means for storing picture signals selected by said second select means.

2. A picture decoding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display control means for controlling an operation to display said picture signals stored in said second storage means.

3. A picture decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said display control means controls display timings for all of a plurality of said picture signals in

accordance with a reference signal included in any one of said picture signals.

4. A picture decoding apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said display control means controls display timings for a plurality of said picture signals in accordance with an independent reference signal.

5. A picture decoding apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a storage control means for controlling operations to write and read out said picture signals into and from said first storage means by monitoring storage write and read status of said first storage means.

6. A picture decoding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said storage control means halts a write operation of said first storage means if a position pointed to by a write pointer approaches a position pointed to by a read pointer at a distance equal to or shorter than a predetermined threshold value, or halts a read operation of said first storage means if a position pointed to by said read pointer approaches a position pointed to by said write pointer at a distance equal to or shorter than a predetermined threshold value.

7. A picture decoding apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said first storage control means controls

operations to write and read out a picture signal from said first storage means when a picture represented by said picture signal is found to be a static picture.

8. A picture decoding method comprising:

an input step of inputting a plurality of picture signals;

a first storage step of storing said picture signals input at said input step independently of each other;

a first select step of selecting a predetermined one among said picture signals stored at said first storage step;

a decoding step of decoding a picture signal selected at said first select step;

a second select step of selecting a predetermined one among picture signals decoded at said decoding step; and

a second storage step of storing picture signals selected at said second select step.

9. A picture decoding method according to claim 8, further comprising a display control step of controlling an operation to display said picture signals stored at said second storage step.

10. A picture decoding method according to claim 9,

wherein at said display control step, display timings for all of a plurality of said picture signals are controlled in accordance with a reference signal included in any one of said picture signals.

11. A picture decoding method according to claim 9, wherein at said display control step, display timings for a plurality of said picture signals are controlled in accordance with an independent reference signal.

12. A picture decoding method according to claim 8, further comprising a storage control step for controlling operations carried out at said first storage step to write and read out said picture signals by monitoring storage write and read status at said first storage step.

13. A picture decoding method according to claim 12, wherein at said storage control step, a write operation of said first storage means is halted if a position pointed to by a write pointer approaches a position pointed to by a read pointer at a distance equal to or shorter than a predetermined threshold value, or a read operation of said first storage means is halted if a position pointed to by said read pointer approaches a position pointed to by said write pointer at a distance equal to or shorter than a predetermined threshold value.

14. A picture decoding method according to claim

12, wherein at said first storage control step, operations to write and read out a picture signal from said first storage step are controlled when a picture represented by said picture signal is found to be a static picture.

15. A recording medium for storing a program, said program comprising:

an input step of inputting a plurality of picture signals;

a first storage step of storing said picture signals input at said input step independently of each other;

a first select step of selecting a predetermined one among said picture signals stored at said first storage step;

a decoding step of decoding a picture signal selected at said first select step;

a second select step of selecting a predetermined one among picture signals decoded at said decoding step; and

a second storage step of storing picture signals selected at said second select step.

16. A recording medium according to claim 15, further comprising a display control step of controlling

an operation to display said picture signals stored at said second storage step.

17. A recording medium according to claim 16, wherein at said display control step, display timings for all of a plurality of said picture signals are controlled in accordance with a reference signal included in any one of said picture signals.

18. A recording medium according to claim 16, wherein at said display control step, display timings for a plurality of said picture signals are controlled in accordance with an independent reference signal.

19. A recording medium according to claim 15, further comprising a storage control step for controlling operations carried out at said first storage step to write and read out said picture signals by monitoring storage write and read status at said first storage step.

20. A recording medium according to claim 19, wherein at said storage control step, a write operation of said first storage means is halted if a position pointed to by a write pointer approaches a position pointed to by a read pointer at a distance equal to or shorter than a predetermined threshold value, or a read operation of said first storage means is halted if a position pointed to by said read pointer RP approaches a

position pointed to by said write pointer at a distance  
equal to or shorter than a predetermined threshold value.